

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A ~~composition~~ compound comprising a first and a second chemically synthesized oligomeric compound, wherein:

~~at least a portion of said first oligomeric compound is capable of hybridizing with at least a portion of said second oligomeric compound;~~

~~one of said oligomeric compounds is an antisense strand and the other of said oligomeric compounds is a sense strand, said oligomeric compounds are not covalently linked to each other, and each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds is from about 12 to about 30 linked nucleosides in length;~~

~~at least 17 nucleobases of said first chemically synthesized oligomeric compound are is 100% complementary to and capable of hybridizing with said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compound and to a selected target mRNA nucleic acid;~~

~~at least one of said first and second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds has a plurality of 2'-hydroxy-pentofuranosyl sugar moieties; and~~

~~each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds includes at least one modified nucleoside comprising a sugar surrogate.~~

2-68. (canceled)

69. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ compound of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds is from about 15 to about 25 linked nucleosides in length.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

72. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ compound of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

73. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one sugar surrogate is selected from among a pyrrolidine nucleoside, a morpholino nucleoside, a cyclobutyl nucleoside, and a peptide nucleic acid nucleoside.

74. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds is from 15 to 25 linked nucleosides in length.

75. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds is from 17 to 25 linked nucleosides in length.

76. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds has a plurality of 2'-hydroxy-pentofuranosyl sugar moieties.

77. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds comprises at least two modified nucleosides each independently comprising a sugar surrogate.